CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Monday (Day) 20 (Date) December, (Month) 1943, 19

Zone description -11

Position 0800	1200	2000
Lat. 08°,21'S.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest,
Long. 148°,17'50"E.	New Guinea	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Underway in column formation,base course 168 True,169 Gyro,160 Standard, Average speed 255 RPM. 0400 Position 07°,53'S.,148°,09'E.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

0400-0800
Underway as before.0454 Changed course to 108,True,109 per gyro compass, 0713.5 Raymond Shoal Buoy abeam to port,distance off 1.3 mile.0733.5 Gumboro Hill abeam to starboard,distance off 5.8 miles. 0740 changed course to 150 True,151 per gyro compass. 0750 Magazines inspected,conditions dry and normal.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

0800-1200
Underway as before. 0846 Claire reef buoy abeam to port,distant two(2) miles. 0940 changed course to 146(t),147(pgc)1003 Buna four mile beam to starboard distant 600 yards. 1006 changed course to 140 (t),141(pgc) 1040 Steering various courses and speeds standing into anchorage off Cape Sudest,New Guinea. 1132 Anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea,to seventy-five(75)fathoms of port chain in twenty(20)fathoms of water on the following bearings;Cape Endairdere,306(t),Cape Sudest range,252(T), mountain peak(175)t.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg)R

1200-1600
Anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea to the port anchor with 75 fathoms of chain in 20 fathoms of water on the following bearings:Cape Endiadere,306(T),Cape Sudest range 252(T),Mt.Peak,175(T).1300 12 enlisted men and 20fficers,survivors from Apc 21 departed,also J.C. Whitehair,Lt.Col.USA. Lt.Col. S.I.Draper,Lt.Cmdr.A.N. Flippen,USNR, Lt.C.Hunt Jr. USNR and 13 enlisted menUSN. 1535 Gave 50 gals.of gasoline to LCPR from LST 457 along starboard side. Bearings checked.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

1600-2000
Anchored as before. Bearings checked. Watch uneventful.1930 Small boat being repaired.1940 Eight o'clock reports heard.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg)

2000-2400
Anchored as before,bearings checked,watch uneventful. 2230 By order of the Commanding Officer,SOUDER,H.W.(563-089)Sea 1cR was reduced to the rating of seaman,second class(R)for insubordination under authority of Article 326,Naval Courts and Boards and article 24 of the Articles for the Government of the United States Navy.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

BNP 136

CONFIDENTIAL

Page

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Tuesday (Day) 21 (Date) December,1943,19 (Month)

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest	Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea to the port anchor with 75 fathoms of chain in 20 fathoms of water on the following bearings;Cape Endaidere, 306(T),Cape Sudest Range,252(T).0306 Yellow alert,made preparations for getting underway. Standing by to get underway to end of watch.Bearings checked.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

0400-0800
Anchored as before. 0410 all clear signal,secured all sea details.0545 called all hands. 0610 made preparations for getting underway,posted special sea detail. 0650 Secured special sea detail,standing by for further beaching orders. 0750 magazines inspected,conditions dry and normal.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

0800-1200
Anchored as before. 0849 made preparations for getting underway. 0847 began heaving in on bow anchor. 0850 anchors aweigh,underway on various courses and speeds to anchor off Beach at Cape Sudest. 0926 Let go bow anchor, anchored off beach at Cape Sudest,New Guinea,to 20 fathoms of chain in 3.5 fathoms of water on the following bearings,Beacon 338 True,White buoy, 069 True,Garbage jetty,212 True.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

1200-1600
Anchored as before. 1215 GALE,F.Jr.(625-579)F2c(R),departed as boat-keeper of LCPR under orders of commanding officer dated 21 December,1943, boat temprarily transferred to shore base. 1247 made all preparations for getting underway. 1300 anchor aweigh,steering various courses and speeds,standing into beach at Cape Sudest,in obedience to order of Commander,Group 21,LST Flotilla 7. 1321 Beached at Cape Sudest,New Guinea, to four hundred seventy-five(475)feet of stern cable.1500 commenced unloading cargo. 1530 MACKIEWICZ,J.A.Cpl.USMC(F-2-17)and five men,USMC, came aboard for berthing as guard detail for cargo to be loaded.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

1600-2000
Beached at Cape Sudest,New Guinea,with 475 feet of cable to the stern anchor,3 fathoms of water under the stern. 1725 finished unloading.1740 Commenced loading. 1930 mustered and heard 8 o'clock reports,all departments secured,except those engaged in loading.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

2000-2400
Beached as before.Loading operations continued throughout watch.Ships head steady on 270 Gyro.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-28-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

Page

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Wednesday (Day) 22 (Date) December,1943 (Month) 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Beached at Cape Sudest,New Guinea,with 475 feet of cable to the stern anchor, in 3 fathoms of water.Loading operations continued throughout watch.Ship's head steady on 209 True.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

0400-0800
Beached as before,loading cargo.0840 Received 1008 rounds of 40MM high explosive tracer ammunition per requisition afloat,dated 21 December,1943. Received twenty(20)40MM ammunition clips.0445 completed loading cargo of trucks,tractors,ampbhibious tanks,various vehicles,and ammunition.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

0800-1200
Beached as before.0820 Made preparations to get underway.0850 Retracted from beach,underway on various courses and speeds to anchorage off Cape Sudest. Total cargo aboard 94 vehicles,12 push carts,4 amphbious tanks, 750 tons of ammunition and stores,also R.L. Mitchell,1st Lt.USMC and 14 enlisted men as guards for cargo. 0953 anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea to the port anchor with 75 fathoms of chain in 23 fathoms of water on the following bearings: Oro Bay Pt. 202(T),Cape Sudest,317(T).

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

1200-1600
Anchored as before. 1245 LCV 488(C)and T/4 REIDY,T.J.(32322663),T/5 MACK, J.M.(16055937),T/5 MANEY,R.W.(34302987)PFC COLINS,J.J.(32320739)Pvt. CLAPSO,J.F.(32259849)PFC LANGSHAW,J.E.(19114411)aboard for transportation. 1500 draft fwd.3'3",aft 12'. Bearings checked,unchanged.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

1600-2000
Anchored as before.Bearings checked,unchanged,watch uneventful.1630 Evaporator put in operation.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

2000-2400
Anchored as before,bearings checked,watch uneventful.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg)

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Thursday (Day) 23 (Date) December,1943 (Month) 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.		Cape Sudest,	
Long.		New Guinea.	

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea to the port anchor with 75 fathoms of chain in 23 fathoms of water on following bearings,Cape Sudest,317 (T),Oro Bay Pt.202(T).Bearings checked. Watch uneventful.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

0400-0800
Anchored as before0546 No.2 generator out of commission,being repaired by ships force.0547 Evaporator stopped.0600 called all hands.0750 inspected magazines,conditions dry and normal. Bearings checked, unchanged.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

0800-1200
Anchored as before.Bearings checked,unchanged. 0944 Held fire drill and collision drill instruction. 0950 Secured from drills. 1019 Held abandon ship drill. 1033 Secured from all drills.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

1200-1600
Anchored as before,bearings checked,watch uneventful.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

1600-2000
Anchored as before. 1858 Rec'd 260 Kapok Life jackets from Naval Supply Depot,Milne Bay,New Guinea. 1925 Received commissary stores from LST 168 as per invoice #3-44. 1950 Mustered and heard 8 o'clock reports,all departments secured for the night. Bearings checked.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

2000-2400
Anchored as before. Bearings checked.Watch uneventful.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

Page ....

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Friday (Day) 24 December (Date) ,1943. (Month) , 19

Zone description -11

Position 0800	1200	2000
Lat. Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,
Long. New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea to the bow anchor with 75 fathoms of chain in 23 fathoms of water on the following bearings,Cape Sudest, 317 True. Oro Bay point,202 true,bearings checked.Watch uneventful.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

0400-0800
Anchored as before,bearings checked;0600 called all hands and performed morning routine.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg)

0800-1200
Anchored as before.0805 Inspected magazines,conditions dry and normal. 1030 Made preparations for getting underway. 1100 weighed anchor,underway on various courses and speeds to beach at Slip #6,Cape Sudest. 1150 Proceeding to beach on Cape Sudest Range.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

1200-1600
Underway to beach on Cape Sudest. 1216 beached at Slip #6 with 630 ft.of stern cable to the stern anchor with 3½ fathoms of water under the stern. 1315 commenced loading troops aboard,1410 all troops aboard,571 enlisted men,31 officers. 1420 made preparations for getting underway. 1535 tested magazine sprinkler system,working condition satisfactory. 1535 LST 66, alongside to port,retracting from beach,our stern cable fouled,in their stern anchor. 1546 our cable clear,no damage. 1550 retracting from beach. 1555 off beach,underway on various courses and speeds to anchor in designated area.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

1600-2000
Underway as before. 1647 Let go the bow anchor,anchored with 75 fathoms of chain in 28 fathoms of water on the following bearings. 298 True, Cape Endiadere,268 True,265 True on range at Cape Sudest,New Guinea. Set in port watch. 1721 Made preparation for getting underway.1723 Heaving around on bow anchor.1731 Anchors aweigh,underway on various courses and speeds manuevering to join column formation.1750 Steering course 325 True,326 per gyro compass,311 per standard compass,all engines ahead standard,5th ship in column formation. 1823 changed course to 297 true,1828 reduced speed to 2/3 ahead on all engines. 1833 reduced speed to 1/3 ahead. 1834 All engines astern full.1835 Stopped all engines let go bow anchor,anchored off Buna Roads,New Guinea with 75 fathoms of chain in 23 fathoms of water on the following bearings,Buna Lightship 271 ,30' True,Dumboro Hill,316,30' True,Range 239,30' True,1910 Eight oclock reports heard.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

2000-24000
Anchored as before,bearings checked.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

Approved: Examined:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG. /s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Commanding Officer. Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

Page

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Saturday (Day) 25 (Date) December,1943, 19 (Month)

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	07°,58'S.	07°,19'40"S.	6°,01'S.
Long.	148°,09'E.	148°,04'E.	147°,45'E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Anchored in Buna Roads,New Guinea to the port anchor with 75 fathoms of chain in 23 fathoms of water on the following bearings,Buna 4 mi. buoy,271,30(T),Bunboro Hill,316 ,30'(T),Range 239 30'(T). 0200 Made preparations for getting underway. 0255 Weighed anchor. Underway on various courses and speeds forming in column 5th in line from the guide, standing out of Buna Roads. 0325 Set course 328(T),329(Pgc),speed 260RPM on all engines.0332 formed column open order.0349 Margaret Shoal buoy abeam to starboard distance .4 mi. slight variations in speed to maintain position,to end of watch.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

0400-0800
Underway as before. 0710 maneuvering to form two column formation.0711 Mitre Rock abeam to port,distant 1.6 mile. 0739 Convoy in two columns, open order formation,all engines turning 250 RPM. 0750 Inspected magazines,conditions dry and normal.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

0800-1200
Underway as before. 0812 changed course to 354 True,355 per gyro compass,350 ,30' per standard compass,steering course,352 True,353 per gyro compass. 0817 all engines ahead 2/3. 0822 all engines ahead standard,base speed 9.5 knots. 0925 All ships clocks synchrozinzed.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

1200-1600
Underway as before. 1409 changed course to 036 True,037 Gyro.1410 reduced speed to 250 RPM.1427 changed course to 060 True,061 Gyro. 1435 Changed course to 030 True,031 Gyro. 040 Standard.1500 Changed course to 354 True,355 Gyro,353,30' Standard.1504 North end of Tami Island abeam to port.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

1600-2000
Underway as before. 1653 Reduced speed to 8 knots,225 RPM on all engines. 1752 changed course to 324 True,325 per gyro compass.314 per standard compass.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

2000-2400
Underway as before.2150 Gunfire,bearing 085 true. 2219 Changed course to 000 True,001 Gyro,001 Standard,005,30'Steering.1155 Evaporator stopped. average speed 220 RPM.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Sunday (Day) 26 (Date) December,1943 (Month) 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	05°,21'S.	Borgen Bay,	05°,20'S.
Long.	148°,32'E.	New Britain	147°,43'E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Underway in convoy formation,base course 000 True,001 per gyro compass, 001 per standard compass,005,30' per steering compass,base speed 8 knots, steering various courses and at various speeds to maintain position in formation. 0032 changed course to 044 True,0038 Steering various courses maneuvering thru channel. 0148 Increased speed to 9.5 knots,0228 changed course to 089 True,090 per gyro compass.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

0400-0800
Underway as before.0459 Sakor Island abeam to starboard,distant, approximately 3.3 mile. 0500 all general quarters stations manned and ready.0600 Cruisers started shelling the beach. 0728 Changed course to 130 True,131 Gyro,130 Standard,reduced speed to 190 RPM. 0739 Increased speed to 250 RPM.0746 Changed course to 160 True,161 Gyro,0753 Changed course to 180 True,181 Gyro,reduced speed to 190 RPM. 0754 Increased speed to 250 RPM and set condition "M".(1).

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg)

0800-1200
Underway as before,course 180(T),181 Gyro.0801 Steering various courses on approach to beach,opening bow doors. 0822 Reduced speed to 2/3-0825-reduced speed to 1/3. 0830 Stopped all engines.0831 Maneuvering to beach.0834 Changed course to 228(T),229 Gyro.0844 Let go stern anchor, 0845 Beached,400 ft.cable out to 5 fathom water,lowering ramp. 0845 Ramp down;beached in Borgen Bay,N.B.on left hand side of beach Yellow #1. 1025 Working ship higher on beach. 1050 Troops and cargo starting to unload.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R
Executive Officer.

1200-1600
Beached as before,under condition 1-M. Unloading continued.1321 Secured from unloading,all cargo except 25 tons bulk stores put ashore.1324 Heaving around on stern anchor.1325 Retracted from beach,ship made ready for sea.Steering various courses out of Bay.1445 See action report.1445 Full speed.1458 Borgen Bay entrance buoy abeam on starboard land. 1512 Reduced to standard speed,250 RPM. 1519 changed course to 275(T), 276 gyro. 1535 See action report.Ambulatory casualty,Louis M.Tedesco (519-262)PFC,USMC.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Executive Officer.

1600-2000
Underway as before on course 275(T),276 Gyro,RPM 250. 1709 See action report.1714 See action report. 1749 Changed course to 270(T),271 gyro. 1806 RPM 260. 1947 Secured condition 1-M. Hit submerged object in Borgen Bay.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Executive Officer.

2000-2400
Underway as before.2012 changed course to 234(t),235(pgc)213(psc). 2122 changed course to 180 (T),181(pgc),180(psc).2315 changed course to 144(t),145(pgc),144(psc).2400 changed course to 139(t).

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg)

Approved: Examined:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the

USS Rigel—10-23-43—5M.
BNP 136

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

Page

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Monday (Day) 27 (Date) December,1943 (Month)

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	07°,04'S.	7°,33'S.	Buna,
Long.	147°,49'E.	147°,56'E.	New Guinea

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Underway in two columns on course 139(T),140(Pgc),132(PSC),speed 260 RPM on all engines. 0350 changed course to 194(T),195(Pgc),181 (PSC) to end of watch. 0400 Position 6°,18'S. 148°,02'E.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

0400-0800
Underway as before.0553 Tami Island abeam to starboard.0645 Changed course to 215 True,216 Gyro. 199 30' Standard.0750 Inspected magazines condition dry and normal. Average speed 260 RPM.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg)

0800-1200
Underway as before.0843 changed course to 159 True,160 per gyro compass,154 per standard compass,150 per steering compass. 0845 #1 generator reported out of commission.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

1200-1600
Underway as before. 1215 changed course to 153(t),154(pgc),149(psc). 1300 Mustered crew at quarters,no absentees.1354 Changed course to 115(t),116(psc).1509 Mitre Rock abeam to starboard,distant 1.9 miles. 1525 Changed course to 151(t),152(pgc),148(psc).

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg)

1600-2000
Underway on course 151(T),152(Pgc),148(PSC),Speed 260RPM on all engines. 1622 Raymond Shoal buoy abeam to port distance 1.8 mile. 1635 Gumboro Hill abeam to starboard,distance 5.3 mi.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

Underway as before. 1816 changed course to 146 True,147 Gyro. 1840 Set special sea detail,on various courses and speeds maneuvering to anchor in Buna Roads,New Guinea.1900 anchored in 23 fathoms of water with 45 fathoms of chain to the bow anchor on the following bearings. Buna Lightship 187 Buna Bn 217.Gumboro Hill,315. 1930 Mustered eight o'clcok reports,all secured. 1930 Draft fwd.2'7",aft 10'10". 1930 Made preparations for getting underway. 1950 Underway on base course, 138 True,139 Gyro.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg)

2000-2400
Underway as before.2016 Increased speed to 2/3 ahead on all engines. 2019 all engines ahead standard.2105 Stopped all engines,let go bow anchor,anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea with 60 fathoms of chain in 28 fathoms of water on the following bearings. 285 True, group lights,243(T),left tangent of markers,199(T),Right tangent of markers.Bearings checked.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Tuesday (Day) 28 (Date) December,1943. (Month), 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,	Cape Sudest,
Long.	New Guinea	New Guinea	New Guinea.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea,to sixty(60)fathoms of port chain in twenty-seven(27)fathoms of water on the following bearings,group of lights 285 left light of markers,243(t),right light of markers. Watch uneventful. Bearings checked.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

0400-0800
Anchored as before. 0530 Made preparations for getting underway. 0612 Underway on various courses and speeds proceeding to beach at Cape Sudest. 0735 Anchored off Slip #7,Cape Sudest to the stern anchor with 300 feet of cable in 5 fathoms of water,awaiting retration of LST 463,from Slip #6 to end of watch. 0758 Inspected magazines,conditions dry and normal.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

0800-1200
Anchored as before,0832 made preparations for getting underway. 0840 Underway on various courses and speeds to beach,slip-six,Cape Sudest, New Guinea. 0858 beached at slip-six,with 570 feet of cable to the stern anchor with 3½ fathoms of water under the stern and ships head steady at 272. 1008 Commenced loading cargo,1200 GALE,F2c(625-579)Returned to ship with LCPR.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg)

1200-1600
Beached as before.Ship's head steady at 272 per gyro compass. 1430 Small boat from ABD 10 alongside,took on 50 Kapok life preservers,invoiced to APD 10. Loading of cargo continued throughout watch.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)

1600-2000
Beached as before. 1800 Completed loading cargo of various vehicles, stores and gasoline. 1840 Lt.H.S. NECOMB,USNR and one(1)Chief Petty Officer,USNR. Lt.A.ANDESEN and sixty-two men,Lt.J.G.HAYDON,USA and seven(7)men,Capt J.T. NEAL,USMC and forty-nine(49)men;Lt.N.C.PAGGEH, USMC,Capt.R.B.McBRODM,USMC and fifty(50)men,USMC.Capt.R.MENTZINGER, USMC and seventy-two men(72)USMC and Lt.MORGAN,USMC and nineteen(19) menUSMC aboard for transportation per authority Commander,Group 21,LST Flotilla 7. 1910 Made all preparations for getting underway.1944 retracted steering various courses and speeds standing out of Cape Sudest anchorage.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

2000-2400
Underway on various courses and speeds.2022 set course 326(t),327(Pgc), 317(PSC),Speed 130 RPM on all engines.2132 stopped all engines,waiting for convoy to form in column astern. 2143 Speed 130 RPM on all engines proceeding in column formation. 2210 Increased speed to 250 RPM on all engines.2241 changed course to 355(T),356(Pgc).2305 Margaret Shoal Buoy abeam to starboard distance .5 mi. 2313 Changed course to 327 (T),328(Pgc), 328(PSC),to end of watch.2400 Position 8°,24'S;148°,20'E.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

Approved: Examined:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Wednesday (Day) 29 December (Month), 1943 (Date) 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	07°,22'40"S.	06°,53'S.	05°,57'S.
Long.	147°,34'E.	147°,55'E.	147°,46'E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Underway in column formation, base course 377 True, 378 Gyro. 317 Standard. 0143 Changed course to 005 True, 006 Gyro, 356 Standard. 0230 Mitre Rock abeam to port distant 4.8 mile. 0313 Changed course to 310 True, 311 Gyro, 294 Standard. 0400 position, 148 ,08'E.; 07 ,43'S. Average speed 250 RPM.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

0400-0800
Underway as before on base course 310 True, 311 per gyro compass. Average speed 250 RPM. 0755 magazines inspected condition dry and normal.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

0800-1200
Underway as before. 0812 changed course to 035(t), 036(pgc), 042(PSC)049 (pstgc).

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

1200-1600
Underway on course 035(t), 036(Pgc), 042(PSC) speed 250 RPM on all engines 1340 Changed course to 342(T), 343(Pgc), 336(PSC). 1515 Turned formation 50 to starboard to 033(T) to avoid approaching formation of APD's with escort. 1523 Turned formation 50 to port to 342 (T) when clear of passing vessels. 1600 Position 6 ,25'S. 148 ,02'E.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

1600-2000
Underway as before. 1605 expected air attack, sounded general quarters. 1608 all stations manned and ready. 1620 all clear, secured from general quarters. 1625 changed course to 325 True, 326 Gyro, 321 Steering Comp. 315 Standard. Average speed 250 RPM.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

2000-2400
Underway as before. 2130 changed course to 000 True, 001 per gyro compass. 001 per steering compass, steering 357 True, allowing 3 degrees for set. 2247 changed course to 350 True, Steering 348 True, allowing 2 degrees for set.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg)R.

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Thursday (Day) 30 (Date) December (Month),1943, 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	05,°28'50"S.	05°,28'50" S.	05°,19'25"S.
Long.	148°,30'E.	148 °30'E.	148°,04'50"E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Underway on base course 354(t),355(pgc),346(psc),speed 9 knots(250RPM). 0020 Changed course to 052(t),053(pgc),057(psc).0115 changed course to 089(t),090(pgc).093(psc).0250 speed 8 knots(230RPM)0313 changed course to 084(t),085(pgc),090(psc).0355 sighted flares and tracer fire.Manned general quarters stations.

/s/B.C.BREED,Lt.(jg)

0400-0800
0419 Changed course to 070(t),071 gyro,0612 changed course to 140(t), 141 gyro.0650 all engines stopped. 0715 Pilot aboard,various courses and speeds to beach,slip #7.Borgen Bay,New Britain.0758 Let go stern anchor.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.

0800-1200
0800 Beached slip #7,370 ft.stern anchor cable to 4 fathoms of water. 0812 ramp down,wet ramp,unloading amphibious tanks. 0820 Tanks unloaded. 0840 closed ramp,heaving in stern anchor to retract from beach. 0841 off beach,maneuvering to return to beach. 0904 all engines ahead standard, let go stern anchor. 0905 beached,290 ft. stern cable to 3½ fathoms of water,opened bow doors.0907 open ramp. 0940 started unloading.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.

1200-1600
Beached as before,unloading.1320 cargo unloaded,1336 six empty trucks loaded aboard.1340 heaving around on stern anchor,retracting.1402 Retracted,closed ramp and bow doors. 1409 underway,various courses and speeds standing out of Bay. 1440 Cleared bay,various courses and speeds, awaiting other LST's. aboard for passage,two officers and six enlisted men.USMC.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.

1600-2000
Underway as before.1604 Course 275(T),296 Gyro.255 per standard compass. 1613 Changed course to 285(T),286 Gyro,267 PSC. 1653 all engines standard, 255 RPM,ships in formation 1708 changed course to 276(T),steering 279 gyro to make good course.1844 Sakar Island 2 pts on port bow.1928 Sakar Is.4 pts.on port bow.1949 Sakar Island abeam to port,distance 3 miles.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.

2000-2400
Underway in column formation(2 columns)on course 278(T),279(Pgc)to make good 276(T)speed 255 RPM on all engines.2235 changed course to 210(+),211(Pgc),steering 215 (Pgc) to make course good.2355 changed course to 183(T),184(Pgc)to make good 180(T),to end of watch.2400 Position, 5°,31'S; 147°38'E.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

Approved:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.

PART III

CONFIDENTIAL

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 18 Friday (Day) 31 December,1943. (Date) (Month) , 19

Zone description -11

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	6 °,45'S.	07 °,21'S.	05°,34'S.
Long.	148 °,03'E.	148°,03'E.	148°,30'E.

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400
Underway in two column formation,base course 180 True,181 Gyro,172 Standard. 0145 Changed course to 145 True,146 Gyro,143 Standard. Average speed 255 RPM. 0400 position 147 ,50'E. 06 ,05'S.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

0400-0800
Underway as before.0640 Changed course to 172 True,173 per gyro compass. 163 per standard compass.0726 changed course to 180 True,181 per gyro compass,170 ,30' per standard compass. 0750 magazines inspected,condition dry and normal. 0800 Tami Island abeam to starboard,distance off 6.2 miles.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

0800-1200
Underway as before.Watch uneventful.

/s/B.C.REED,Lt.(jg).

1200-1600
Underway as before.1243 changed course to 172(t),173(Pgc),164 (PSC).1540 Mitre Rock bearing 223(T),changed course to 185(T),186(Pgc),178(PSC)to end of watch.1600 Position 148 ,12'E.,8 ,01'S.

/s/E.V.SAUGSTAD,Lt.(jg)R.

1600-2000
Underway as before.1615 Mitre Rock abeam to starboard,distant 4.4 mile. 1646 changed course to 148 True,149 gyro.1743 Gumboro Hill abeam to starboard,distant 6 mile.1920 changed course to 140 True,141 Gyro,139 Standard.1935 Sighted buoy off Margaret Shoal abeam to starboard,distant .5 mile.Average speed 255 RPM.

/s/D.P.GHIARDI,Lt.(jg).

2000-2400
Underway as before.2026 changed course to 168 True,169 per gyro compass. 2114 changed course to 172 true,173 per gyro compass. 2134 stopped all engines.2135 let go the bow anchor,anchored off Cape Sudest,New Guinea with 75 fathoms of chain in 28 fathoms of water on the following bearings, 195(T)Oro Bay buoy,211(T) light on hill.274 Marking lights on beach.This date,three mess cooks were relieved from duty:-ROCHE,Joseph W.(594-423)Sea 2/c;COLSON,William (546-702)Sea 1c;and NOON,Willet A.(563-877)F1c.

/s/K.C.COOK,Lt.(jg).

Approved: Examined:

/s/JOHN LENCI,Lieut.USCG.
Commanding Officer.

/s/J.C.BAQUIE,Lt.(jg)R.
Navigator.

To be forwarded direct to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet, either at end of an operation or at the end of the calendar month.